



U.S. Department of Justice

*United States Attorney
District of New Hampshire*

*Federal Building
55 Pleasant Street, Room 312
Concord, New Hampshire 03301*

603/225-1552

**MEDIA RELEASE
For Immediate Release
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**Thomas P. Colantuono
United States Attorney**

**Contact: Joseph N. Laplante
Assistant U.S. Attorney
(603) 225-1562 x 230**

**MANCHESTER MAN CONVICTED OF FEDERAL
COCAINE DISTRIBUTION CHARGES**

Re: United States v. Darwin Sanchez-Mateo

CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE -- United States Attorney Tom Colantuono and U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration Special Agent in Charge Mark Trouville announced that Darwin Sanchez-Mateo, DOB 9-2-75, of Manchester, NH was convicted on June 11, 2003 of federal cocaine distribution charges.

On April 11, 2003, Sanchez-Mateo was arrested in Salem, NH after an undercover operation by the Drug Enforcement Administration revealed that he had driven approximately eight ounces of cocaine from New York City to Manchester and Salem, NH. He entered a guilty plea before U.S. District Judge Joseph A. DiClerico, Jr. to an information charging him with Possession with intent to distribute cocaine. Judge DiClerico ordered him detained without bail pending a sentencing hearing scheduled for September 22, 2003 in the U.S. District Court in Concord. Sanchez-Mateo faces a maximum term of imprisonment of 20 years.

U.S. Attorney Colantuono stated, "This case demonstrates our Office's commitment to aggressively prosecuting drug traffickers, and especially those who transport drugs into New Hampshire's southern tier from New York City. This case is a prime example of the effectiveness of DEA's Cross Border Initiative. I will continue to commit federal resources to these efforts."

The conviction resulted from an investigation conducted by the Drug Enforcement Administration's Cross Border Initiative (CBI), a Task Force based in Lowell, Massachusetts made up of federal agents from the DEA, FBI, IRS, and local police departments from northern Massachusetts and southern New Hampshire including the Salem, New Hampshire Police Department. The CBI's primary focus is drug trafficking over the Massachusetts-New Hampshire border. The prosecution is being handled by Assistant United States Attorney Joseph N. Laplante, the Lead Attorney for the District of New Hampshire in the New England Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force ("New England OCDEF").